

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7193

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL'S COMMENTS ON ISRAELI "PEACE
MAP"

REF: STATE 145787

1. LABOR PARTY SG MEIR ZARMI SPEAKING TO LABOR PARTY FORUM JUNE 19, ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, STATED THAT ISRAEL HAD "GENERAL PEACE PLAN" PROVIDING FOR RETENTION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS AND RAFAH JUNCTION WITHIN FINAL BORDERS. HE ALSO SAID THAT JORDAN RIVER SHOULD BE ISRAEL'S SECURITY BORDER, BUT THAT SOVEREIGNTY OVER WEST BANK WAS OPEN TO NEGOTIATIONS. ISRAEL SHOULD ALSO MAINTAIN "PRESENCE" IN SHARM EL SHEIKH AND STRIP LEADING TO IT, BUT NATURE OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS REMAINS SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS. ZARMI ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THERE WAS CONSENSUS IN LABOR PARTY THAT DRAWING PRECISE MAP COULD DAMAGE PEACE PROSPECTS.

2. ZARMI'S FORMULATION IS BASICALLY RESTATEMENT OF PROVISIONS OF
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1969 "ORAL TORAH", ADOPTED BY LABOR PARTY AS PART OF ITS ELECTION PLATFORM IN THAT YEAR, WITH SOLE DIFFERENCE BEING THAT ORAL TORAH REFERRED TO RETENTION OF GAZA STRIP WHEREAS ZARMI SUBSTITUTES RAFAH JUNCTION. IN FOURTEEN POINTS OF 1973 LABOR

PARTY ELECTION PLATFORM, (TEL AVIV'S 9619, NOV 29, 1973)
FORMULATION OF ISRAELI TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVES WAS
MORE GENERAL, REFERRING ONLY TO DEFENSIBLE BORDERS
....BASED ON TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE". FOURTEEN
POINTS FURTHER STATED THAT PEACE WILL REPLACE
CEASEFIRE LINES, AND THAT "ISRAEL WILL NOT RETURN TO THE
LINES OF THE FOURTH OF JUNE, 1967 WHICH REPRESENTED
A TEMPTATION TO AGGRESSION".

3. GOI HAS NOT REPEAT NOT ADOPTED POSITION ON
QUESTION OF FINAL BORDERS. ORAL TORAH, AS WELL AS 1969 AND
1973 ELECTION PLATFORMS, ARE OFFICIAL POSITIONS
OF LABOR PARTY, AND ZARMI WAS SPEAKING AS OFFICIAL OF
LABOR PARTY. IT SHOULD BE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
THERE IS WIDELY-HELD ASSUMPTION HERE THAT THESE
DOCUMENTS PROBABLY CONSTITUTE BASIS OF WHAT WOULD
EVENTUALLY BE ISRAELI POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS
FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT. AFTER OCTOBER 1973 WAR,
LABOR PARTY MODERATES CLAIMED THAT FOURTEEN
POINTS SUPERCEDED EARLIER DOCUMENTS,
AND ARGUED THAT ORAL TORAH WAS INVALID. THIS
POSITION, HOWEVER, NEVER RECEIVED FORMAL SANCTION OF
LABOR PARTY, WITH HARDLINERS INSISTING THAT ORAL TORAH
REMAINED VALID. THIS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION HAS NEVER BEEN
RESOLVED.

4. AS TO TIMING, WE WOULD NOTE THAT BOTH ZARMI
AND DEFMIN PERES HAVE REFERRED TO ORAL TORAH
PUBLICLY IN RECENT DAYS, WHILE MINTRANSPORT YAACOBI HAS ALSO
MENTIONED IT PRIVATELY. WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR DECISION TO CALL
ATTENTION TO THESE FORMULATIONS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES
PROBABLY CONSTITUTES RESPONSE TO REPORTS CIRCULATING IN ISRAEL
AND CARRIED IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS THAT USG WILL COME FORWARD WITH
OVERALL PEACE PROGRAM IF NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT
COLLAPSE. IN EFFECT, THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO STAKE OUT
ISRAELI POSITION IN CASE OVERALL SETTLEMENT ISSUE
BECOMES ACTIVE.
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5. INADDITION, WE WOULD NOTE THAT ZARMI HAS BEEN
UNDER HEAVY ATTACK FROM WITHIN LABOR PARTY FOR HIS LARGELY PASSIVE
ROLE AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND PARTICULARLY FOR HIS FAILURE
SO FAR TO INSIST THAT PARTY FORUMS ASSUME MORE
ACTIVE ROLE IN DISCUSSING MAJOR POLICY ISSUES IN BOTH
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY ARENAS. HIS
COMMENTS ON "GENERAL PEACE PLAN" WERE MADE IN
CONTEXT OF HIS PUBLIC CRITICISM IN LABOR PARTY FORUM
AGAINST NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR FAILING TO CONSULT PARTY,
AND AS BID FOR REVITALIZATION OF PARTY ACTIVITIES.
VELIOTES

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